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GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD

NORTH AMERICA

Present Immigration into the United States. The "Annual Report of the Commissioner General of Immigration for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1918" (Bureau of Immigration, U. S. Dept. of Labor, Washington, D. C., 1918), presents official statistics showing how completely the great migratory movement to America has been checked and also gives some interesting figures regarding the elements that continue to arrive. The immigration into the United States, whose annual average for the decade immediately preceding the war was 1,218,480 persons, has been reduced to the relatively insignificant number of 110,618. The recent restrictive legislation has consequently had little opportunity for operation, though it did account for a slight decrease, 7,297, or 3.3 per cent, of the applicants for admission being rejected, 23 per cent of these owing their exclusion to the new law. The above figures actually represent little addition to the permanent population of the country, since during the year 94,585 aliens emigrated, 14 of the 40 nationalities listed showing a greater number of departures than arrivals, the net gain being only 16,033. Taken as a whole the number of immigrants was the lowest since 1844, with the one exception of the year 1862, when only 72,183 arrived.

Though obviously it would be unsafe to draw conclusions regarding the future of immigration, either as to its numbers or its racial characteristics, from the statistics for the past few years, which merely reflect the abnormal conditions existing both in America and abroad, yet it is of interest to note that during 1918 the countries from which the greatest numbers of persons arrived in the United States were the following: Great Britain, Mexico, Japan, Scandinavia (including Denmark), and Spain. In the excess of arrivals over departures (leaving out of account the so-called non-immigrant and the non-emigrant, i. e. travelers, temporary residents, etc.) a different order of races and nationalities is noticeable. Here the Japanese, with an excess of immigrants over emigrants of 8,610, were in the lead; followed by Africans (black) with 4,415; Scandinavians with 4,076; and Spaniards with 3,727. On the other hand, among the 14 nationalities whose emigration exceeded immigration (again excluding non-emigrants and non-immigrants) the following led: Mexicans with an excess of departures over arrivals amounting to 7,482; Russians with 3,413; and Italians (South) with 2,901.

That approximately the same general situation has prevailed during the nine months from July, 1918, to March, 1919, is revealed in the *U. S. Immigration Service Bulletin* for May 1, 1919. According to statistics there published the British again led in immigration arrivals, having already passed their numbers for the preceding year. The Japanese have not quite equaled their former rate. Mexicans have slightly surpassed their total for the year 1918, and far fewer Mexicans have emigrated (judging from the number of aliens who have crossed the international boundary southward), thus making the gain apparently more permanent. The total number of permanent immigrants arriving in these nine months was 91,200, while 63,144 aliens permanently emigrated from the country, leaving an increment of 28,056.

The Cold Winter of 1917-18. The remarkably severe winter of 1917-18, with its "record-breaking" low temperatures at many stations and its serious economic effects, especially in connection with the transportation of coal in the northeastern sections, will not soon be forgotten. It was our "war winter" in more aspects than one. Mr. Preston C. Day of the Weather Bureau considers the contributing factors concerned in the development and the continuance of the extreme cold in a recent number of the *Monthly Weather Review* (Vol. 46, 1918, pp. 570-580). In December practically the whole of the North American continent was controlled by an extended area of high pressure central north of the Arctic Circle and accompanied by great cold. Northerly and northwesterly winds prevailed over the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, bringing persistent cold, while warm, generally southerly and southwesterly winds prevailed to the west. An unusually deep and extensive snow cover over much of the eastern United States was an additional factor in producing the extreme cold. During January pressure was below the normal over the southern and eastern sections, with a resulting flow of cold air from the north. This air, passing over the nearly universal cover of snow and ice, kept the temperatures very low. It is Mr. Day's opinion that, given favorable pressure distribution, lasting a sufficient length of time, colder weather

is possible than that which characterized the winter of 1917-18, "without any change in the orderly procession of the forces dominating our weather."

February, 1918, was marked by a uniform prevalence of southerly winds east of the 100th meridian, as a result of which unusual warmth persisted during much of the month. This milder weather brought much relief to transportation and mining interests and also relieved the widespread suffering and discomfort which had resulted from the scarcity of coal and of other fuels.

Mr. Day's article is illustrated by numerous charts showing temperature and pressure distribution and also contains references to some of the many striking economic aspects of the generally severe cold and also of the unusual warmth which characterized certain sections of the country.

R. DEC. WARD

An Ecological Survey of the Palisades Interstate Park. It is one of the attractions of New York that there are so near it thousands of acres of rough, rocky land for the most part covered with forest. Probably no other large city in the world has so large an acreage of forests conveniently located as a resort for its people. There has now been published a note on an ecological survey of the Palisades Interstate Park by Dr. Charles C. Adams (*Empire Forester*, Vol. 5, 1919, pp. 12-18, Syracuse, N. Y.), which suggests the manner in which it can best be improved and used. Palisades Park is a narrow strip on the western side of the Hudson reaching from New York to near West Point and westward to the Ramapo River—in all about 35,000 acres of forest. It is chiefly mountain land with clearings in the valleys. Ponds and lakes have been enlarged, roads and trails constructed, and mountain outlooks made. During the summer of 1918 nearly 50,000 people camped in the park on an average of ten days each. In order best to improve the Park special studies have been made of the bird life, the fish, and the forest botany. The results of these studies are to be published in popular form and will make excellent excursion guides to stimulate and direct intelligent interest toward both scenic beauties and wild life.

War Activities of the Blue Hill Observatory. In the annual volume containing the "Observations and Investigations Made at the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory" for 1918 reference is made, for the first time publicly, to the part which that observatory took in American scientific activity in connection with the war. Near the beginning of the year the Director, Professor Alexander McAdie, was asked by the Navy Department to serve as senior aerographic officer and to undertake the organization of an aerographic service in connection with naval aviation, both in this country and abroad. Professor McAdie, commissioned as Lieutenant Commander in the United States Naval Reserve Force, was sent overseas in April, 1918, with a small group of junior officers who had been trained at Blue Hill. During the year 56 candidates for commissions received instruction at the observatory, 28 American universities or colleges being represented in this number. As the Director says in his introduction to the 1918 volume: "It is a memorable tribute to the far-sightedness of the founder of the observatory that, when the country needed an institution where men might be given opportunity to study the structure of the atmosphere and become familiar with the working of instruments similar to those in the leading European observatories, the need could be promptly met."

R. DEC. WARD

EUROPE

Publications on the Military Geography of the Italian Front. As a result of the struggle in which Italy was engaged along her northeastern border during the war, and as an aid in carrying on the military operations in that region, the Comando Supremo of the army issued a series of pamphlets dealing with the military geography of particular points along the frontier. Several of these studies are of decided general geographical interest, as will be seen from the subjects listed below. They cover such matters as the topography, hydrography, temperature at different elevations and different seasons, roads, vegetation, wind direction, humidity, rainfall, snowfall, the danger from avalanches, water supply, the strategic features of the mountains, and relate to such now famous places as the Piave basin, the Asiago plateau, the upper and middle Adige, the upper Isonzo, Monte Nero, the Bainsizza plateau, Il Montello, the basin of Gorizia, etc. Detailed topographic maps, reprints of those made by the Istituto Geografico Militare, accompany some of the pamphlets, while others contain profiles, hypsometric maps and sketches of the topographic features.

AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA

Australian Exploration and Its Physiographic Relations. The exploration of Australia was guided by physiographic conditions and climate, and the conflicting reports

of the explorers affected outside opinion in a constantly changing manner. The continent has its fertile portion so disposed that even today most of its people live in a narrow band within a comparatively short distance of the sea. The great interior is either quite desert or primarily a stock country. About 1,000,000 square miles, or one-third of the whole, offers only poor support to flocks and herds. This great area has probably less than 150,000 cattle and sheep or not much more than one per cent of the total stock of the commonwealth. Dr. Griffith Taylor, Physiographer of the Commonwealth Weather Service, has recently published (*Geogr. Journ.*, March, 1919) a valuable analysis of the routes of the explorers in terms of climate and physiography. He discusses all the earlier explorations, including those of Capt. Jansz (1606), Houtman (1619), Carstens (1623), Thyssen (1627), all of whom visited peculiarly inhospitable stretches of coast. The desert thickets, the dry offshore trade winds, the old state of native life, the sterile soil, made a most unfavorable impression.

Tasman was the first circumnavigator of Australia and was the first to visit portions of the country which exhibited other aspects than barren wastes and stunted vegetation. From that time on, explorers' comments on the nature of the land varied with the region visited, and their testimony was conflicting and on the whole affected British readers unfavorably. Cook, in 1770, visited the eastern portions, where the rainfall is heavier, and his report was distinctly favorable. On those portions of the coast discovered by the English are sixty-four of the eighty largest towns in Australia today. Of all the coast explored by the Dutch only a small region (Swanland) is suited for white settlement. The first settlement was made in 1788 on the shores at the fine harbor of Port Jackson, one of the greatest harbors in the world, where there were rich valley lands and bordering cattle pastures. There follow notes on the work of the explorers who penetrated inland, like Cunningham (1823-1827), Hume and Hovell in 1824, and the noteworthy explorations of Mitchell and Sturt, who explored especially the drainage of southeastern Australia from 1830 to 1836. It was in 1836 that settlement was first started in South Australia and exploration proceeded rapidly from Adelaide. Eyre saw Lake Torrens in 1838, a lake which occupies a rift valley of fairly late origin, and in 1841 the same explorer started on his disastrous journey to the Swanland region. In northeastern Australia memorable work was done by Kennedy, who passed along the deeply dissected, eastward-facing scarp fronting the Pacific, where, on account of the heavier vegetation and rugged relief, his expedition met with constant difficulties and dangers. Only by 1862 was the whole of Australia fairly well known, and even then the varying accounts of rainfall and suitability for settlement made scientific exploration a necessity. The contradictory reports are due largely to the unreliability of the rain. One explorer visited a region in a wet year, when there are good pastures, and another visited the region in a very dry year. Only the rather permanent vegetation and the minor surface features, such as sand hills, shallow depressions, and mountains are described in terms that agree in all the accounts.